

# Sustainable Funding for Conservation of Iowa's Natural Resources Meeting Summary

**Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge  
West Des Moines, IA  
August 30, 2006**

Committee members present:

Mark	Ackelson		Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Dan	Cohen		IACCB
Dick	Dearden		IA Senate-Democrat
Barbara	Finch		Iowa Farm Bureau
Tammi	Kircher		Ducks Unlimited
Rich	Leopold		Iowa Environmental Council
Lola	Lopes		The Nature Conservancy
Pauline	Novotny		Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Marvin	Shirley		Farmers Union
Ken	Tow		Secretary of Agriculture
Dave	Van Waus		Pheasants Forever
John	Whitaker		IA House of Representatives-Democrat
Sarah	Kobliska	for Mary Lundby	Legislative Staff: IA Senate-Republican
Jane	Clark		Sierra Club
Ken	Herring	for Jeff Vonk	IA DNR
Owen	Shunkwiler		Iowa Renewable Fuels Association
Henry	Rayhons		Iowa House of Representatives-Republican

Committee members absent:

Deb	Ryun	Conservation Districts of Iowa
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Committee Support Staff

Diane	Ford-Shivvers	IA DNR Legislative Liaison / SF Support
Doug	Harr	IA DNR Program Coordinator/SF Facilitator
Kim	Rasler	IA DNR / SF Support
Sharon	Tahtinen	IA DNR Legislative Liaison / SF Support
Peter	Fritzell	IA DNR / SF Support
Chris	VanGorp	IA DNR

Public present:

Jace	Mikels	IA Senate
Tony	Phillips	Drake
Duane	Sand	INHF
Matt	Hare	The Nature Conservancy
Deb	Kozel	LSA
Tony	Phillips	Drake
Duane	Sand	INHF
Kristin	Gray	IA House of Representatives-Republican
Tommi	Makila	IAMU (IA Association of Municipal Utilities)

10:00 AM	<b>Welcome and introduction of new Committee members</b> <b>Review today's agenda</b>
10:15 AM	<b>Summary of 08/09/06 meeting</b> - 08/09/06 meeting summary was reviewed. - Website update: The website is anticipated to be up and running in approximately 2 weeks under a stand-alone site that DNR and other agencies can link to.
10:30 AM	<b>Explanation of materials provided by staff – Doug Harr</b> <b>Information from other states:</b> - Handout of Summary of Selected State Natural Resource Funding prepared by Anthony Phillips was discussed. Per Mark Ackelson, the data is not an exhausted list but provides background and information for evaluation. A number of these states have constitutionally protected funds. Other states can be researched as the committee needs. <b>Spreadsheet with draft matrix of current funding and estimated needs:</b> - a draft of current funding numbers was clarified and discussed.
11:00 AM	<b>Committee-as-a-whole discussion</b> <b>- General discussion was held regarding the future needs of the committee to fulfill their charge. The committee suggested and brainstormed the following needs/clarifications:</b> <div> <div></div> <div> <p>* Have the current funding spreadsheet revised to include reference documents and where the numbers/figures came. Also, revise spreadsheet to reflect uniformity of numbers/figures (ie \$873 million over 25 years versus annual figures).</p> <p>* On the current funding spreadsheet, list what is the state funding / budgeting only, separating out funding that may be coming in from other sources (ie federal dollars). We cannot always assume the state will always receive federal dollars. It could be noted separately what funding COULD be available. Would like to see “real” numbers that are being used. (Herring: Would it be helpful for the committee to identify specific sources of federal money for programs you want to know about? Committee: Yes. This will, also, identify the public’s support due to their interest in participating in these programs.)</p> <p>* It was identified that some of the program funding includes staffing costs and many of the programs relate to practices vs staffing. The current funding spreadsheet may need to be re-evaluated to break out staffing costs.</p> <p>* Regarding Other section, trails money may need to be identified. There, also, is an educational component within these programs/numbers that may need to be teased out. There has to be an urban component that we need to pull out of here, also, as well as preserves (ie Open Spaces).</p> <p>* Regarding water quality – how much money is used to solve problems or maintain water quality? (General discussion held.)</p> </div> </div>

	<p>* Look at how we can use funds to “get ahead” of problems and/or solve issues before they adversely affect the environment.</p> <p>* Would like to look at the tax code. It would be helpful to look at information on incentives being offered to industries. (Regarding the tax code, 2 years ago, the Governor’s staff did work on the cumulative effects of the tax incentives which may be a resource to get that information.)</p> <p>* Useful for DNR to put together information describing REAP, Environment First, and Fish and Game Trust Fund – ie: where the money comes from, how it’s legislated, how the money’s spent for presentation at the next meeting.</p> <p>* Would like Deb (Kozel) to locate fiscal note regarding what the 2% sales tax did.</p> <p>* Do all counties have sales tax that dedicates part of it for county betterment? Could betterment be defined? (General discussion held.)</p> <p>* Need a whiteboard or flip chart for future meetings to draw out ideas, discuss, and determine pros and cons.</p> <p>* Provide any ideas on how to dedicate funds such as constitutional funds. (ie like school board approves funds with specific ways to spend money noted.)</p>
	<p>General Discussion:</p> <p>* Need to be aware of the original source of funding (ie general fund) and how it may be affected by hard times and we need to consider how the new sources may need to be able to grow.</p> <p>* Process of passing legislation was discussed (minimum 3 years with a 4<sup>th</sup> year for public to vote on it).</p>

<p><b>- The committee summarized their need to identify new funding sources, reallocation of current funds, and how to dedicate the funds. The committee chose to devote this meeting to brainstorming possible ideas of new funding sources and methods to analyze funding source feasibility, which includes public input.</b></p>	
	<p>DNR support staff will create a survey for the committee to identify their top 5 choices of ideas brainstormed. The top 10 choices of the compiled surveys will be presented to the committee for their review and exploration of the sources’ feasibility.</p>
	<p>Committee will determine subcommittee to look at these ideas to determine what sources may be explored further.</p>
	<p>The committee discussed using CARD to assist with the public survey. A motion was made and approved: Utilize the CARD staff to work with a subcommittee to prepare a survey of ample size of Iowa's public for willingness to pay and have this presentation ready for the next meeting reflecting the top 10 ideas voted on by the committee.</p>
	<p>A subcommittee was defined today and they will begin work on creating a public survey on the public’s “willingness to pay” regarding the identified funding</p>

	sources and/or in aspects of natural resource issues. (Subcommittee members: Barbara Finch, Owen Shunkwiler, Tony Phillips/Mark Ackelson, Dave VanWaus, Peter Fritzell.) The subcommittee will meet via teleconference after receiving the survey data to review. <b>The conference call is scheduled for 2pm 9/15/06 initiating from the Wallace Building.</b>
	The committee and the DNR will work together to create ballpark ideas of what income the top 10 sources identified could generate.
	The DNR is to talk with CARD this week on what CARD will need and what we can provide to create a survey.

2:45 PM	<b>Discuss/Arrange public input meeting/methods.</b>
	The committee discussed ways to survey the public. One method would be to provide them with the “best” options identified, with information explaining those options so they could make an informed decision. This will be formalized after the committee reviews the new sources of funding survey results and CARD’s response regarding conducting the willingness to pay public survey.

<b>NEXT FULL COMMITTEE MEETING:</b> <b>Wednesday, September 20, 2006, 10am – 3pm</b> <b>Location - Forest Park Nature Center, Perry, Iowa</b>	
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3:00 PM	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>
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